

TRIO Programs – Joint Letter Request (\$968,100,000). I would ban earmarks as we know them, but as long as these earmarks are available, I'm going to apply for them in an effort to pursue federal funding opportunities for my district. For non-defense projects in the current earmarking system, I work closely with local governments, civic organizations, non-profits and business development authorities to identify and prioritize projects important to local communities in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District (and sometimes elsewhere). I only request funds for projects authorized by law for federal funding and do not do so for private parties or entities. These national programs help ensure that every postsecondary student has the tools - information, academic counseling, and personal support - that are critical to enrolling in postsecondary programs and earning college degrees. It is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because they will allow nearly 120,000 additional students to receive the vital, life-changing services offered by the TRIO programs.